



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON FORT RICHARDSON (PROV)
724 POSTAL SERVICE LOOP #6000
FORT RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99505-6000

IMPC-FRA-ZA

27 August 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Policy and Procedures for Installation Off-Road Recreational Vehicle (ORV) Use on Fort Richardson, Alaska (USAG-FRA-15)

1. **References:** United States Army Alaska Regulation 385-1

2. **General:** ORV and motorized watercraft regulations apply to all persons, civilians and military, operating ORVs and motorized watercraft on United States Army Garrison Fort Richardson (USAG FRA) lands. All ORVs and motorized watercraft will be operated in compliance with State of Alaska laws addressing registration, safety equipment and pollution.

3. **Definitions:**

a. ORVs are defined as motorized vehicles primarily designed for operation on land and other hard surfaces such as frozen lakes and rivers. ORVs are further divided into two classifications, those with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 1500 lbs. or less, and those over 1500 lbs. ORVs in excess of 1500 lbs. are prohibited from leaving any improved roadway without a permit. The Directorate of Public Works Conservation Branch may issue permits for ORVs in excess of 1500 lbs GVWR to enter training lands and to travel off of improved roads.

b. Motorized watercraft are defined as watercraft propelled by machinery. This term includes any vessel temporarily or permanently equipped with a motor (e.g. riverboats, airboats, hydrofoils, personal watercraft, etc).

4. All land and water areas are closed to ORVs and motorized watercraft, except those areas and/or trails that are determined suitable and specifically designated for ORV and motorized watercraft use in this policy letter. Training areas may be wholly or partially closed at various times, depending on seasonal conditions, including water levels, snow depths, or other issues.

5. The Garrison Commander, or designee, will immediately prohibit specific types of ORV and motorized watercraft use if it is determined that such use and activity is causing or will cause considerable adverse effects on soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, or cultural or historic resources. Restrictions on ORV use and/or closure of designated sites will remain in effect until such adverse effects have been corrected,

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including site restoration, if necessary, and appropriate measures implemented to prevent any such recurrence.

6. Mandatory Use of Safety Gear:

a. All operators and passengers on ORVs are required to wear a DOT, ANSI, or Snell Memorial Foundation certified helmet, impact or shatter resistant goggles or full face shield properly attached to the helmet, sturdy leather boots or over the ankle shoes, full-fingered gloves, long trousers, and a long-sleeved shirt or jacket. A high visibility brightly colored outer upper garment during the day and retro-reflective outer upper garment for night.

b. All occupants in or on watercraft, regardless of age, will wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, or III, Personal Flotation Device while on USAF FRA waters per USARAK Regulation 385-1.

7. ORV and Motorized Watercraft Management Areas:

a. Openings and closures of ORV use, times and places, for reasons of safety, security, and mission requirements, will be determined by the Director of Emergency Services, Safety Officer, and the Range Control Officer.

b. Openings and closures of ORV use, times and places, for environmental reasons, will be determined by the Directorate of Public Works Conservation Branch.

c. The following Management Area classifications will be used to describe ORV and watercraft use and areas one the installation.

a. Open Use Area. Open to all ORVs and motorized watercraft.

(1) No restrictions for ORVs with a GVWR of 1500 lbs or less unless specified by the Directorate of Public Works Conservation Branch or Range Control, and there is no potential for damage to the surface soil layer. Any activity that creates ruts, subsidence or erosion is prohibited.

(2) Vehicles with a GVWR greater than 1500 lbs are restricted to improved roads if the operator does not possess a special use permit issued by the Directorate of Public Works Conservation Branch.

(3) Motorized watercraft must stay within existing open water channels.

b. Modified Use Area. Open to all types of ORVs with a GVWR of 1500 lbs or less and motorized watercraft.

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(1) Vehicles with a GVWR greater than 1500 lbs are not allowed at any time without special use permit issued by the Directorate of Public Works Conservation Branch.

(2) No restrictions for ORVs 1500 lbs or less unless activity has potential for damage to the surface soil layer, creates ruts, subsidence or erosion.

(3) Motorized watercraft must stay within existing open water channels.

c. Limited Use Area. Closed to all ORVs. Motorized watercraft must stay within existing open water channels.

d. Special Use Area. An area managed for recreational use under specific rules that apply only to that area.

e. Closed Area. Closed to all recreational activities year round.

8. ORV and Motorized Watercraft Operating Criteria: No person under 16 years of age will operate an ORV, unless under the direct and visual supervision of their parent(s) or an adult 21 years of age or older, who is currently authorized to recreate on USAG FRA lands and is in full compliance with all applicable rules and regulations.

9. Seasonal Usage Operating Areas:

a. The Garrison Commander opens or closes the seasonal use of ORV's on Fort Richardson based on the environmental recommendations of the Directorate of Public Works Conservation Branch.

b. The summer ORV area is comprised of 2,578 acres on North post extending from the fence line (north cantonment fence) north to the Alaska Railroad and East to Pole Line Road (see attached maps). This includes portions of TA's 411, 412 and 418. Note that a portion of 418 south of the railroad is also off limits.

c. All areas not listed in the above including the cantonment area are closed to summer ORV usage.

d. Persons entering FRA for recreational use of ORV's must haul (not ride) them to the authorized ORV use area. Alternate routes may be available and users should check with the Directorate of Emergency Services to obtain route information.

e. ORV's with a GVWR of 1500 lbs or less must remain on established trails. Any activity that creates ruts, subsidence or erosion is prohibited.

f. Vehicles with a GVWR greater than 1500 lbs are restricted to improved roads. Any activity that creates ruts, subsidence or erosion is prohibited.

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g. Outdoor Recreation Services personnel (MWR) may designate a specific route to be used for the riding of rented snow machines from the rental facility to the closest open area, designated as special use. Selection of this route will be coordinated with Range Control, the Directorate of Public Works Conservation Branch and the Directorate of Emergency Services. Safety of the rider and potential damage to the natural and cultural resources will be considered.

h. ORV's may not be refueled or re-oiled on frozen waterways, ponds or lakes.

i. With the exception of designated parking lots, roads, and boat launches, motorized vehicles (with the exception of watercraft) are not allowed within 50 meters of any water body on Fort Richardson.

j. If any fuel, oil or any potentially hazardous substance spills from inside or from a container being carried on an ORB onto the ground or frozen waterways, ponds or lakes or into any unfrozen waterway, pond or lake, the operator must notify the Elmendorf AFB Fire Department Spill Line at 552-SPIL (552-7745) and the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Office at 384-2711 as soon as possible.

10. **Liability:** The U.S. Government shall not be liable for any damage or injury to equipment, persons, or property resulting from the use or participation in ORV activity on USAG FRA lands. It is understood by owners and operators of ORV's that natural and manmade hazards exist in designated ORV use areas and that anyone who engages in this activity does so completely at their own risk. ORV owners and operators may be held financially liable for damage to government or private property resulting from their activity.

11. **Penalties:** Individuals violating the provisions of this policy may be barred from recreating on Fort Richardson lands for up to one year as well as having their Directorate of Moral Welfare and Recreation, Outdoor Equipment Rental (OER) privileges revoked indefinitely at all U.S. Army Alaska installations. In addition, individuals who violate this policy or applicable sections of the United States Code of federal regulations or local state statutes may be subject to other adverse criminal and/or administrative actions. Further, military personnel who fail to comply with the requirements of this policy may be subject to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

12. The primary point of contact for this memorandum is the Directorate of Emergency Services at (907) 384-0825.


DAVID L. SHUTT
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Commanding

DIST: A(FRA)